

## **Ana M. Gopoiian**

Ana M. Gopoiian has lived in Connecticut all her life, and had gone astray at a young age to cope with early trauma and unaddressed mental health conditions leading her down a path that would not be conducive to meeting healthy social norms. Despite any of her misguided experiences and adversities, she is now enjoying success in many areas of her life. At the age of 42 Ana started college starting with Management and Leadership track and achieving a BA in Social Science, studies in Drug and Alcohol Counseling, State Certified Recovery Support Specialist and many other Certifications. It's been over 23 years that Ana identifies herself as a woman in long term recovery, which means she has not used any drugs, including alcohol to change the way she feels.

After 26 years in a corporate career, Ana had transitioned all her energies into not only continuing her education, but starting the nonprofit organization TriCircle, Inc. (TCI) TriCircle, Inc. has been created to support individuals and their families affected by substance use disorders break the cycle of recidivism that exists in the current system of addiction recovery. As Ana and TCI work toward full implementation they hold engaging community activities, and educational training opportunities in many different communities. TriCircle, Inc. now has 6 Hope and Support Groups in 5 different towns, with Enfield foretasted to be added in October. Recently TCI also obtained funding to start the first Hope After Loss Groups, these meetings will be for parents and loved ones that have lost someone to an accidental overdose, a drug induced suicide, or murder because of a substance. Ana believes herself to be a bridge builder and connector of resources, TriCircle, Inc.'s tagline supports this, WE Provide the Tools to Build Stronger Futures, and this year's campaign is Together WE are Stronger!